

# Bee City USA - Royal Oak

Report on 2023



## Pollinator Habitat Creation & Enhancement

*Please describe pollinator habitat creation or enhancement projects in your community in 2023, and whether your committee hosted them or not.*

The City of Royal Oak planted three large pollinator gardens at Hamer Finch Wilkins Park in the summer of 2023. Additionally, the Fred A Erb Arboreum has expanded its collection of native trees and plants. Also in 2023, the city was awarded a grant to create a pollinator-friendly garden in a park to be used for education/demonstration purposes. And finally, a construction project in 2023 reduced a road from four to three lanes. In doing, roadside green spaces were expanded and three new rain gardens were installed.

*How many habitat projects did you help to create or enhance in 2023?*

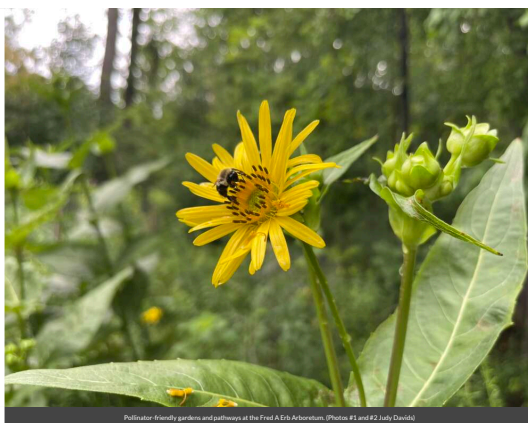
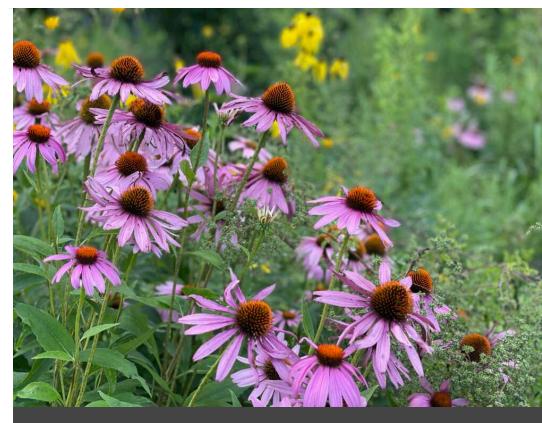
5

*How many people (staff, volunteers, students, partners, etc.) helped with those projects?*

20

*Please check all that describe the habitats your affiliate helped to create or enhance in 2023 with pollinator benefit in mind.*

- Flower garden
- Natural area with tree snags and stumps, and bare areas for ground nesting species
- Meadow
- Pollinator-friendly lawn (with flowering clover, dandelions...)
- Rain garden/bioswale
- Roadside/rights of way planting



## Education & Outreach

*Please describe pollinator conservation events or outreach activities in your community in 2023, indicating whether your committee hosted them or not.*

The Environmental Advisory Board hosted a well-attended Earth Day event in which information about protecting pollinators was distributed. In addition, honey ethically harvested from our Normandy Oaks Park bee hives was promoted and sold at a summer concert series. The Royal Oak City Commission also encouraged out residents to participate in No Mow May.

*How many pollinator-related events or outreach activities did you host or help with in 2023 (in total)?*

4

*How many people attended those events (in total)?*

500

*How many Bee City USA logo street signs have you installed to date (in total)?*

1



The Bee Tweens distribute No Mow May and other educational materials at an Earth Day event. (Judy Davids)



Ethically harvested from our Normandy Oaks bee hives. (Judy Davids)

## Policies & Practices

*Please describe actions taken to make pest management more pollinator-friendly.*

The city of Royal Oak prioritizes natural solutions and minimizing chemical use. The city makes every effort to minimize harm to pollinators and has greatly reduced its use of pesticides.

*In your city or campus, are any policy initiatives underway to further protect pollinators, people or waterways from pesticides?*

Royal Oak is taking a proactive step in promoting pollinator conservation by inserting a four-page pollinator guide titled "What Residents Should Know About Pollinators" into a magazine distributed to 34,000 addresses. This guide aims to educate residents about the importance of pollinators and how they can support their populations through simple actions like planting native flowers, reducing pesticide usage, and creating pollinator-friendly habitats in their yards. By reaching a wide audience through this distribution method, Royal Oak hopes to raise awareness and inspire collective action to protect pollinators and preserve biodiversity within the community.

*Did your committee participate in any continuing education on ecologically-based Integrated Pest Management planning?*

N/A

*Please check actions you have taken to make pest management practices more pollinator-friendly.*

- Avoided use of pesticides in public sites containing designated pollinator habitat or other sensitive features (except when targeted use is deemed the best option for invasive or noxious weed, insect or

disease management)

- Reduced the total area of city or campus-managed lands to which pesticides are applied
- Distributed educational materials to residents or students to encourage the reduction or elimination of pesticide use

*Are efforts underway in your community to further reduce pesticide use in residential or business areas? This may include neighborhood-led efforts, outreach to landscapers, etc. If so, please describe.*

Royal Oak currently encourages its residents to participate in No Mow May. No Mow May encourages residents to reduce pesticide use in their yards by promoting a natural approach to lawn care. During the month of May, participants are encouraged to refrain from mowing their lawns to allow wildflowers and other native plants to bloom and provide habitat and food for pollinators.

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Learn More

Integrated Pest Management Plan:

Recommended Native Plant List: [Native Plant List for Bee City.pdf](#)

Recommended Native Plant Supplier List:

<https://romi.gov/1842/25223/Royal-Oak-is-a-Bee-City-USA>  
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<https://instagram.com/beecityro>

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